

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. McNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S POLICIES
DESTROY JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, President Obama struck another blow destroying American jobs with his new proposal to raise the salary threshold for overtime. This top-down, burdensome regulation will inhibit job creation, burden small businesses, and penalize hard-working Americans.

By increasing the wage threshold, businesses in South Carolina and across America will be faced with difficult choices: reducing hours for workers and cutting jobs. This change will hurt hard-working employees, who will face a lack of flexibility, limited opportunity for advancement within their jobs, and lower base salaries.

The new mandate joins other harmful administration regulations, including mandatory wages and fixed work schedules, destroying jobs.

The failed liberal welfare state policies of the last 50 years have produced increased poverty, and we should change policies to promote a limited government of expanded freedoms, creating jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ADDRESSING FORECLOSURES AND
SHORT SALES IS CRITICAL

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, homeownership is one of the cornerstones of the American Dream; yet, since the 2007 housing crisis, millions of Americans have lost their homes through the foreclosure process, and many more continue to struggle.

Addressing foreclosures and short sales is critical. Accelerating the short sale process for homeowners would be part of the solution.

Unfortunately, in California and across the country, one of the most significant factors that slows down the short sale process takes place when a homeowner's second mortgage lender delays final negotiations on the short sale; and too often, second mortgage

lenders use stonewalling tactics to delay payouts from the first mortgage lenders. This, unfortunately, delays and hurts the homeowners, willing buyers, and the economy at large.

After further investigation on this issue, I will be introducing a bill to address short sales and ask the Federal Housing Finance Agency to provide an update on what it is doing to facilitate short sales and protect homeowners.

WESTERN WATER AND AMERICAN
FOOD SECURITY ACT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2898, the Western Water and American Food Security Act. This is by Representative VALADAO from California. I appreciate his hard work and bipartisan efforts on this.

California's drought is having devastating effects on agriculture and our food supply nationwide. Last year, drought-related water cutbacks caused an estimated 400,000 acres to be fallowed, costing thousands of jobs and leaving consumers less food choices in the United States.

While the solution is certainly not going to be all encompassed in one bill, this will be a great start towards getting California back where we need to be for drought relief.

We cannot stand by and watch one more family suffer, small businesses and our economy leaving the State, when we should have those jobs right in the valley.

It ends the finger-pointing and blame game, and provides desperately needed short-term relief while advancing commonsense policies to fix the situation in the long term.

It would update Federal laws and streamline water permitting so we could build Sites Reservoir in northern California. Indeed, it also ensures sound and real-time science and water delivery methods so we don't have a situation where we are leasing 15,000 acre-feet twice to benefit less than 30 steelhead fish.

Let's get on with getting California's water supply back on track so that this important legislation is not stalled by the usual suspects on the environmental left.

Indeed, the proof will be in the pudding.

CELEBRATION OF THE HUNT

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two young constituents, Connor Hanson and Schuyler Elaine Frasier, for being among the top students to place in the National Shooting Sports Foundation's annual essay contest.

Connor took the top honors, and Schuyler placed in the top 25, and also received a Learning for Life Award.

In Minnesota, hunting is a way of life. These traditions are often passed down from one generation to the next, teaching many important life lessons along the way.

Connor depicts this in his essay, describing the bonding experience with his father, the spirituality of the hunt, as well as everything that the hunt has taught him about life. Connor writes that the "hunting season allows me to see and experience the truth, through God's creation."

I want to congratulate Connor and Schuyler on not only placing in this competition, but for so accurately portraying how important hunting is to our culture in Minnesota.

Well done.

EPA METHANE REGULATION

(Mr. MEADOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the shale energy revolution, the United States is benefiting from the economic and energy security and, I might add, environmental benefits of a natural gas abundance.

However, the EPA is threatening to take this energy advantage and make it a disadvantage. The EPA is currently trying to further regulate the byproduct of natural gas production, that of methane gas.

The EPA, under the Obama administration, is at its worst. The Obama administration mission is clear: if it is not a "green" energy source that he likes, it should not exist.

And Obama has proven that he will use the EPA to do all he can to make it more difficult and expensive for American families to utilize this incredibly wonderful source of natural gas that we have here in America.

Lower energy prices for Americans, and we have also helped the environment.

So I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in opposing the burdensome mandates that will unnecessarily hinder natural gas production in the United States, thereby dismantling and diminishing the energy advantage that we have today.

CURES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, Friday afternoon of last week, this House passed what may well be the most important piece of legislation that will be passed in our lifetimes. I am talking about H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.

This is legislation that is to improve and enhance the discovery, development, and delivery of new medicines,